

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A communication arrangement for connecting together a plurality of nodes, said arrangement comprising:

at least one opto-electronic S/E transducer each connected to one of said plurality of nodes, each transducer generating a first electrical output signal in response to an optical input signal from one of said nodes, said each transducer determining a value of said first electrical output signal and outputting, during a period of time when there is an absence of an input optical signal from said one node, a second electrical signal as an error signal when said value of said first electrical signal is less than a predetermined value ~~during a period of time when there is an absence of an input optical signal from said one node~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for determining errors in data transmission among a plurality of nodes connected to one another, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one optical module for converting an input optical signal from one of said nodes to an output electrical signal;
determining a value of said output electrical signal;
~~composing~~ comparing said value to a base value; and
outputting, during a time when there is an absence of input optical signals, an error signal when said value is less than said base value ~~during a time when there is an absence of input optical signals.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7,

wherein said error signal is stored in a memory.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, including the step of reading out a status of said memory element.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said memory element is addressable.